

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11, having a height in a caudo-cranial direction relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position in portions of the prosthesis configured to engage the lateral edge zones approximately equal to a height of the intervertebral space at the location of the edge zones, and having a height in portions of the prosthesis configured to engage the central area greater than a height of the intervertebral space at the location of the central area.

3. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 or 2, wherein the prosthesis surface is provided with elevations and depressions in the central area but not in the edge area.

4. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 or 2, wherein the prosthesis surface is toothed in the central area.

5. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 or 2, wherein an angle of inclination of [[the]] a portion of a lower prosthesis surface that is configured to engage the edge zones of the end plate surfaces in the frontal plane relative to [[the]] a main direction of extent of the prosthesis relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position is at least 20°.

6. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 or 2, wherein an angle of inclination of [[the]] a portion of an upper prosthesis surface that is configured to engage the edge zones of the end plate surfaces relative to [[the]] a main direction of extent of the prosthesis relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position is at least 0°.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral joint prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 or 2, wherein the surface of at least one of its cover plates, whose size is dimensioned to substantially

utilize the naturally provided surface extent of the intervertebral space, has a central area (8, 50), which extends approximately parallel to the main plane of extent of the cover plate, and, adjoining this in the dorsolateral direction, a surface (10, 51) beveled relative to the central area.

10. (Previously Presented) An instrument set configured for inserting the prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 or 2, comprising a plurality of rasps adapted to the configuration of the prosthesis and configured to prepare the vertebral body surfaces to accommodate the prosthesis shape,

the rasps being designed such that the rasps remove material from the central area and the edge zones except for the dorsal part of the edge zones.

11. (Currently Amended) An intervertebral joint prosthesis configured for implantation into an intervertebral space between adjacent cervical vertebral bodies ~~of the cervical spine~~, which intervertebral space is delimited by end plates of the adjacent vertebral bodies whose end plate surfaces whose surfaces laterally adjacent to a substantially flat central area include edge zones that are more strongly curved than the substantially flat central area,

wherein at least one of the prosthesis surfaces [[being]] is configured to bear on a corresponding vertebral body end plate surface, the prosthesis surface having a lateral extent reaching into the edge zones[[, the]] of the corresponding end plate surface and having a convex curvature of this prosthesis surface in a frontal plane being at least as great as the greater than a corresponding curvature of the corresponding vertebral body end plate surfaces surface, and

wherein the prosthesis has a width in a lateral to medial direction that is at least 1.5 times as great as its depth in an anterior to posterior direction in the intervertebral space, the width and depth being taken relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position.

12. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 6, wherein the angle of inclination of the portion of the upper prosthesis surface that is configured to engage the edge zones of the end plate surfaces relative to the main direction of extent of the prosthesis relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position is 10 to 30°.

13. (New) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11, wherein the prosthesis has a width that is more than 1.63 times as great as its depth.